

MASTER'S THESIS

Gender differences of conversational interaction in radio programmes

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**GENDER DIFFERENCES OF CONVERSATIONAL
INTERACTION IN RADIO PROGRAMMES**

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Abstract

This study attempts to explore the gender differences of conversational interaction when hosting the radio programmes. This is a quantitative study in which the corpus consists of 12 hosts from 5 different radio programmes recorded on two major radio stations in Hong Kong where Cantonese is the chief medium. Three discourse areas were analyzed: amount of speech, use of interruptions and conversational features.

The study shows that on radio stations, both male and female hosts exhibit different conversational characteristics. Although there is no a great difference found, it is found that the conversational style of female hosts is becoming more complex than before. They join the discussion with the male partner more actively than the past, show more supportive interruptions and make more cooperation-related conversational features. However, it is also found that some of the female hosts are becoming as dominant as or even more dominant than their male partners.

The study also shows that other factors may influence the language behaviours of the hosts such as topic competency, relationship of the hosts, the status of the hosts and the setting where the conversations take place.

This study helps us to understand that lots of assumptions about the stereotype of gender role in language need to be reexamined as the role of women is undergoing a substantial change.

摘要

本論文嘗試探討不同性別的主持人在電台上對話模式上的分別。研究對象為十二個本地電台五個不同種類以廣東話為主的節目。研究範疇為三項：對話的數量，中斷對話及對話上的其他特徵。

研究顯示男女主持有着不同的對話特徵。雖然分別不大，但是女性主持的對話模式比以往更為複雜。她們比以往更活躍地參予討論，喜愛用協助及支持式的方法去中斷別人的對話及用較多合作性的對話模式。然而，有部分女性主持的對話模式開始變得像男性主持一樣甚至超越他們去扮演一個支配和控制者的角色。

研究亦顯示除了性別外，還有其他因素會影響電台節目主持人的對話模式包括：對題目的認識程度，主持人的關係及地位，以至對話的地點及背景。

這項研究幫助我們明白到隨着女性角色的急速轉變，以往一些在性別與語言上的假設須重新考究。

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